





GRANTHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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CHARLES H. D. ROBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1921.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Fourteenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Rural District for the Year 1920, in accordance with Instructions issued by the Ministry of Health. Following my usual custom, I begin with a Summary of the Vital Statistics of the Area, which are calculated upon the figures supplied by the Registrar-General :

Population, Census 1911	-	-	-	12,257.
Population, Estimated 1920	-	-	-	12,468.
Birth Rate, per 1,000	-	-	-	22.5.
Death Rate, per 1,000	-	-	-	11.3.
Death Rate of Infants under One Year, per 1,000				72.4.
Average Birth Rate, England and Wales	-			25.4.
Average Death Rate, " " "	-			12.4.
Average Infantile Death Rate, England & Wales				80.
Illegitimate Births	-	-	-	17, or 6 per cent.



## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

There is nothing to add to what has been stated in previous Reports as to the social conditions and chief occupations of the inhabitants of the District. Agriculture remains the most prominent industry, though there is a by no means inconsiderable number of ironstone workers, and the villages close to Grantham contain a fair number of men employed in Engineering Works. It is noticeable that during the last few years several social and recreation huts have been erected in the District, and there can be no doubt that the amenities of village life are improved by such means.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

The Year 1920 has been remarkable throughout the country for the gratifying increase in the Birth Rate, and perhaps even more so for the diminution of the Infantile Death Rate. In your District, the Birth Rate has increased from 17 per 1,000 in 1919 to 22·5, though it is lower than the average for England and Wales, which in the same years increased from 18·5 to 25·4.

The Infantile Death Rate, which for the country in general was 89 in 1919, which was the lowest figure on record, still further diminished in 1920 to 80.

Your District in each year was below this average figure, being 70·8 in 1919 and 72·4 in 1920.

The Death Rate for the country in 1920 was 12·4 per 1,000, and in your District was 11·3.

The number of illegitimate births was 17, representing six per



cent of the total Births. It will be seen that the Vital Statistics follow fairly closely the average.

It will be of interest to see what the Census figures will show the Population to be. In 1911, it was found that the actual number of residents was considerably less than the estimated figures.

The Table of Causes of Death has no outstanding features. Whereas in 1918 there were 61 deaths from Influenza, and 19 deaths from the same cause in 1919, there were only 2 deaths from this disease in 1920. This shows a very rapid return to the normal, and it may be hoped with some confidence that we shall not again see such an appalling epidemic as that of 2½ years ago. Deaths from Tuberculosis were 13 in number, six of them being due to pulmonary tuberculosis. It has been stated that there has been an increase of pulmonary tuberculosis in the county during the last few years, and the records of the District confirm this, though it is always dangerous to draw conclusions of a general character from the cases occurring in one small area. There have been 22 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in the last three years in the District, and only two, or possibly three, were discharged soldiers.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER. Your District is partly supplied by Springs, but the usual method is by means of shallow Wells.

Analyses are from time to time conducted, and it is usually found that the water is of reasonably good quality, and







there has not been any evidence of a water-borne epidemic in the District for many years. The greater part of the District has a sufficient supply, although in various localities there may be a shortage of water in very dry seasons. The village of Colsterworth is poorly supplied, and many houses have to obtain their water from a considerable distance. The question of the water supply of this village is now engaging your attention, and schemes have been brought forward showing alternative plans of providing a good supply of wholesome water to the locality.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. The River Witham rises in the district. It is liable to pollution in several villages, but there is no evidence of gross contamination, and the various outfalls have received attention in the last few years.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The larger villages in the district are generally adequately drained, and the effluent from the sewers properly treated. There are a few water closets, but the usual closet accommodation is the pail system, which is recommended in preference to the old privy vault.

SCAVENGING. Removal of house refuse and cleansing of closets, etc., is not undertaken by the Council, but is left to individuals. This is generally satisfactory, but in some villages such is not the case, and a satisfactory method of getting this essential work done is much to be desired.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

In the Report for 1919 it was shown that the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified in the four years from 1916 to 1919 inclusive have averaged just about ten in each



year, and that the incidence rate compared very favourably with that of the country in general and with the adjoining rural areas. It was further stated that the Isolation Hospital had not been opened for the reception of cases during the four years in question, and that if the question of the Hospital being permanently open throughout the year for such a few cases was considered from the material view only, it might very seriously be argued that the good to the community was overweighed by the expense of administration.

The number of cases notified during the year 1920 has again been comparatively small, and the list is appended:-

Diphtheria	-	-	15 cases.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	11 "
Erysipelas	-	-	4 "
Meningitis	-	-	1 "
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-		9 "
Other Forms of Tuberculosis			3 "
			--
			43.
			--

Of the cases of Scarlet Fever, nine were notified within a few days at Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir. Here the question of opening the Isolation Hospital was seriously considered. Of six notifications received by the same post, four were in one family and constituted the whole of the juvenile portion of the household, and another case was well isolated. It was further found that the cases were all of an extremely mild character, and that at least two of them had been suffering from the disease several days





before notification. It was therefore impossible to "nip it in the bud". Two cases afterwards occurred in one of the same households a few days after the initial notification, and would certainly have arisen whether removal of the first case had been undertaken or not. It is, therefore, clear that no very great advantage would have been gained by the opening of the Isolation Hospital.

There was an epidemic of six cases of Diphtheria at Ancaster in the Spring of the year. Here, as in the Woolsthorpe Scarlet-Fever epidemic, the chief difficulty met with was the inadequacy of proper nursing arrangements in small cottages.

There were four cases of a very virulent type at Burton Coggles, two of which were fatal. A woman was engaged to nurse these cases.

There were nine cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, three of which died during the year, and one early in 1921. Two other cases were sent to a Sanatorium.

Of the three Other Forms of Tuberculosis notified, the disease was in each case Meningitis, with fatal termination. There were three other cases of Tuberculous Meningitis which were not notified.

There were no notifications of Pneumonia, but there were six deaths from this disease. It is obvious, therefore, that notification is very inadequate so far as this particular complaint is concerned. I gave what I thought was a reasonable explanation of inadequate notification in my Report for 1919, and my opinion is still unchanged that a trifling notification fee of one shilling gives the impression that these matters are of no importance. It is understood that the fees will be restored to the original amount when we are no longer technically at war with Turkey !



A considerable number of diseases became notifiable during the year for the first time, including the mysterious "sleeping sickness", or Encephalitis Lethargica. Your District has been fortunately exempt from this.

The routine visits and subsequent disinfection of premises at the conclusion of illness have been undertaken.

Bacterial aids to diagnosis are freely used.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Routine visits of Inspection have been made during the year, and the action taken, and the various nuisances will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, which also deals with Food and Milk Supply.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The greater part of the District is efficiently served by Nurses, part of whose duty is to visit Maternity cases, and give whatever advice and attention are considered advisable.

There is no "Child Welfare Scheme" actually in being, and it is difficult to see how one could be arranged in such a large and scattered district. The advantages of consultation centres in a populous area are obvious, but in villages where only very few children would be brought for advice, there is not the same urgent need.

It may also be added that the mortality returns with regard to young children in this District have for many years been satisfactory, and there is no reason at the present time why proper skilled advice should not be obtainable for any young child in the District.





## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

This is carried out as formerly by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector. The County Medical Officer is concerned more particularly with the Sanitation and Inspection of Schools, and with the treatment of Tuberculosis.

The hospital accomodation consists of an Isolation Hospital, which has not been used for some five years for reasons already explained under the subject of Infectious Diseases.

The Council undertakes to pay for the administration of Diphtheria Anti-toxin, and for the bacteriological examination of suspected cases of this disease, and of Tuberculosis. Advantage has been widely taken of the facilities thus given.

## HOUSING.

The following remarks on Housing are taken from the Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

### General Housing Conditions.

There are some insanitary and unhealthy dwellings in the district, as mentioned in the Appendix at the end of the Report. The Report for 1919 showed that there was a shortage of rather more than 100 houses in the district, and a detailed list of the Council scheme was embodied in the report, for building 108 new houses in fifteen different parishes.

48 of these have now been built or are approaching completion of work. In two villages, the sites involving 16 new houses have been bought, and in six villages the preliminary negotiations as to the site of 38 proposed houses have not been completed.

### Overcrowding.

The extent of overcrowding is estimated at about five per cent. The



chief cause is that large families are housed in the poorer type of houses, and it is anticipated that the provision of the more commodious houses now being constructed will do much to prevent future overcrowding.

#### Fitness of Houses.

Two-thirds of the houses in the district have a reasonable standard of fitness, the remaining third being below this standard owing to various causes, such as inadequate larder, lack of copper, boiler or other provision for cleaning, damp walls and paving, poor repair of roofs, want of guttering, low bedrooms, want of fire-place in bedrooms, lack of through ventilation, and small windows. Action has been taken from time to time to abate nuisances, etc. under the Public Health Acts, and a record has been kept from 1910 onwards dealing with houses under Part II of the Housing and Town Planning Act.

The chief difficulty met with has been that it is almost impossible to make Closing Orders effective since no alternative dwelling can usually be found for the tenants.

The Water Supply generally is by Well, though some of the villages have a piped supply from Springs. Closet accommodation is chiefly of the bucket type. Refuse disposal is arranged by the tenants.

No action has been taken during the year as to unhealthy areas.

Bye-Laws were framed for the District a few years ago. They are not stringent. The different matters in connection with Housing are dealt with by a Special Committee of the District.

The following buildings were erected during the year :





1. Village Hall, Denton. "Army Hut Construction."
2. Parish Room, Pickworth. Ditto.
3. Village Hall, Eootherby. Ditto.
4. Village Hall, Haydour. Ditto.
- ÷ 5. Two Farm Cottages, Mill Farm, Great Ponton.
- ÷ 6. A Bungalow dwelling, High Road, Barrowby.
7. Conversion of Residence at Barrowby into Two Houses.
- ÷ 8. Army Hut Dwelling, High Road, Barrowby.
9. Alterations and Additions to nine old cottages,  
Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir.
10. Additions to Maltings, Gonerby Hill Foot.
11. Village Hall, Harlaxton.
12. Additions to Residence, High Road, Barrowby.
- ÷ 13. Two Farm Cottages, Great Ponton.
14. Army Hut Dwelling, Gunby.
15. Additions to Houses, Colsterworth.
16. Army Hut Institute, Local "Comrades",  
Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir.

÷ These buildings are being erected so as to  
receive the Government Subsidy.

The general health of the District at the time when this  
Report is completed, April, 1921, is good.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES H. D. ROBBS.





## REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

During the twelve months, 153 visits were made to respective parishes for the purpose of Inspection under the Public Health Acts, with a distance covered of 1603 miles, and during the same period 266 visits are recorded under the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Acts, involving additional travelling of 2798 miles.

### SANITARY.

Nuisances under the Public Health Act were dealt with as follows:-  
Pools or ponds, 1; Ditches, 3; Drains, 7; Sewers, 8; Privys, 2; Premises, accumulations, dirty houses etc, and overcrowding, 6.

The Parishes concerned were:-Ancaster, Barrowby, Colsterworth, Carlton Scroop, Great Gonerby, Haydour, Easton, Spittlegate Without, Woolsthorpe, Old Somerby, and Brandon.

OUTFALL DITCHES were cleansed at Ancaster, Barrowby, Haydour, Harlaxton, Huby, Ingoldsby, Pickworth, Ropsley, and Welby.

SEWAGE OUTFALL tanks were cleansed at Barrowby, Hough and Manthorpe.

NEW SEWERS, including repairs, manholes, etc., were put in the parishes of Brandon, Boothby, Burton Coggles, Carlton Scroop, Great Gonerby, Haydour, South Witham, and Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir.

WATER SUPPLIES were attended to in Colsterworth, Gunby and Ropsley, and general repairs to same at Welby, Skillington and South Witham.

At Ropsley, it was required to put a renewal of 330 yards of 3" cast iron main, and other Works at a cost of £300.

Closet Accomodation may briefly be summarised : Privies, 55 %; E. C's, (including pails), 25 %; open ashes pits and E. C's, 10 %; and W. C's, 10 %. Improvements are gradually being worked.



SCAVENGING is not undertaken by the Council, but is dealt with by requesting householders to deposit and dig in accumulations on their allotment gardens.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.--There are 14 Slaughter Houses in the District. They are not required to be registered or licensed, and inspections are made from time to time as required. No meat was condemned or surrendered during the year.

KNACKERS.--There are two old-established Knackers' licensed premises in suitable situations. These have been inspected and passed, and their renewals have been again granted for twelve months.

MILK.--The regulations with respect to Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milkshops are enforced in the District. The register varies considerably from time to time, the sub-contractors who supply the town parveyors being the most difficult of the cowkeepers to bring cowsheds up to the standard of cleanliness.

The Food and Drugs Act is dealt with by the County Police.

H. CECIL RUDKIN,

Sanitary Inspector.



# APPENDICES.

## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

### Statistics.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

#### 1.-GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated population	-	-	-	12446.
(2)	General death-rate	-	-	-	11.3 per 1000.
(3)	Death-rate from tuberculosis	-	-	-	1.04 "
(4)	Infantile mortality	-	-	-	72.4 "
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	-			Estimated 2960
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	-			2604
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	-			15

#### 2.-UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

##### 1.-INSPECTION.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	} Estimated 430
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	} 307
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	} 5%
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	} 20%

##### II.-REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	} 98
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### III.-ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

#### A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

- |     |  |   |     |
|-----|--|---|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs  | ) | 177 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit-   | ) |     |
|     | (a) by owners  |   | 150 |
|     | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners  |   | 9   |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | ) | Nil |

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- |     |  |   |     |
|-----|--|---|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ) | 12  |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied-  |   |     |
|     | (a) by owners  |   | 12  |
|     | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners  |   | Nil |

#### C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act, 1909.

- |     |  |   |     |
|-----|--|---|-----|
| (1) | Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders   | ) | 35  |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made   | ) | 5   |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | ) | 30  |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made  | ) | Nil |
| (5) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders   | ) | Nil |





### 3.-UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890.

(1)	Name of area	-	-	-	-	Nil
(2)	Acreage	-	-	-	-	"
(3)	Number of working-class houses in area					"
(4)	Number of working-class persons to be displaced					) "

4.-Number of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 ) Nil

5.-Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer ) The Surveyor.

